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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,355	10/14/2003	Hanswalter Zentgraf	31304-760.831	6701
21971	7590	07/07/2006		EXAMINER
				CROWDER, CHUN
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/686,355	ZENTGRAF ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Chun Crowder	1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/25/2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/913,139.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The examiner of the application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Chun Crowder, Group Art Unit 1644, Technology Center 1600.
2. The instant application appears to be in sequence compliance for patent applications containing nucleotide sequence and/or amino acid sequence disclosures.
3. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 04/25/2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 5-10 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, under 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b), as being drawn to nonelected inventions.

Claims 1-4, read on an antibody against a fusion polypeptide comprising histidine portion of 6-18 histidine residues, are currently under consideration.

For examination purpose, the histidine portion is read as 6-18 successive histidine residues (see page 1 of the instant specification).

4. Applicant's claim for domestic and foreign priority is acknowledged. The priority applications 08/913,139, PCT/DE96/00369, and GERMANY 195 07 166.3 upon which benefit is claimed appear to provide adequate support under 35 U.S.C. 112 for subject matter claimed in the instant application.

If applicant desires to claim the benefit of a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 and 365(c), a specific reference to the prior-filed application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.78(a) must be included in the first sentence(s) of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet. For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of the applications. This should appear as the first sentence of the specification following the title, preferably as a separate paragraph unless it appears in an application data sheet. The status of nonprovisional parent application(s) (whether patented or abandoned) should also be included. If a parent application has become a patent, the expression "now Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_" should follow the filing date of the parent application. If a parent application has become abandoned, the expression "now abandoned" should follow the filing date of the parent application.

The specification on page 1, line one should be amended to reflect the status of the priority applications 08/913,139, which is now US Patent 6,790,940.

5. Applicant's IDS, filed 12/04/2003, is acknowledged and considered.
6. The disclosure is required to be reviewed and all spelling, TRADEMARK, and like error corrected.

Trademarks should be capitalized or accompanied by the <sup>TM</sup> or <sup>®</sup> symbol wherever they appear and be accompanied by the generic terminology. Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent application, the proprietary nature of the trademarks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Appropriate correction is required.

7. Claim 4 is objected to because the claim recited "DSM (German-type culture collection for microorganisms)". Applicant is required to recite the full name of the depository.

8. It is apparent that the antibody deposited under ACC 2207 with DSM is required to practice the claimed invention. As a required element, it must be known and readily available to the public or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification. If it is not so obtainable or available, the enablement requirements of 35 USC 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of the cell line / hybridoma which produces this antibody. See 37 CFR 1.801-1.809.

In addition to the conditions under the Budapest Treaty, applicant is required to satisfy that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent in U.S. patent applications.

Amendment of the specification to recite the date of deposit and the complete name and address of the depository is required. As an additional means for completing the record, applicant may submit a copy of the contract with the depository for deposit and maintenance of each deposit.

If the original deposit is made after the effective filing date of an application for patent, the applicant should promptly submit a verified statement from a person in a position to corroborate the fact, and should state, that the biological material which is deposited is a biological material specifically identified in the application as filed, except if the person is an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Office, in which the case the statement need not be verified. See MPEP 1.804(b).

Affidavits and declarations, such as those under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, filed during prosecution of the parent application do not automatically become a part of this application. Where it is desired to rely on an earlier filed affidavit, the applicant should make the remarks of record in the later application and include a copy of the original affidavit filed in the parent application.

Given the disclosure and the claims encompassing the antibody deposited under ACC 2207 with DSM set forth in U.S. Patent No. 6,790,940; the conditions for the deposit of biological materials under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, with respect to the antibody under ACC 2207 with DSM appears to have been satisfied.

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Randall et al. (Vaccine. 1993. 12:1247-1252. Reference AM on IDS) (see entire document).

Randall et al. teach methods recombinant protein purification using N-terminal histidine tag sequence comprising an array of six histidines fused to the N-terminus of recombinant proteins. Randall et al. further teach that the recombinant protein containing the histidines can be used as antigen to immunize mice to produce polyclonal antibodies that cross-react with the N-terminal histidine fragment (see entire document, particularly pages 1248-1251).

Consequently, the prior art antibody would be reactive against histidine portion of the claimed fusion polypeptide.

Therefore, the reference teachings clearly anticipate the claimed invention.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Randall et al. (Vaccine. 1993. 12:1247-1252. Reference AM on IDS) in view of Harlow et al. (Antibodies. A Laboratory Manual. 1988. pages 139-147).

The teachings of Randall et al. have been discussed, *supra*.

The reference teachings differ from the claimed invention by not describing monoclonal antibody.

However, methods of making monoclonal antibody and the advantage of using monoclonal antibody in various immunoassays were well known in the art at the time the invention was made. For example, Harlow et al. teach that monoclonal antibodies can be made using hybridoma technique and that the advantages of monoclonal antibodies include high specificity in binding, homogeneity, and their ability to be produced in unlimited quantities (see entire document, particularly pages 141-147).

It would thus have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time the invention was made to make monoclonal antibody against the fusion proteins containing histidine tag. The ordinary artisan would have been motivated to do so because antibodies against recombinant proteins containing histidine tag can facilitate protein purification and monoclonal antibodies have the advantages of high specificity, homogeneity and can be produced in unlimited quantities.

Given the teachings of Randall et al. regarding the methods of protein purification using histidine tag, and the teachings of Harlow et al. regarding methods of making and using monoclonal antibodies, the ordinary would have had a reasonable expectation of success of producing monoclonal antibodies against histidine fusion proteins.

Therefore, the invention as a whole was *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

13. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

14. Claims 1-3 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,790,940.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the instant and the '940 Patent claim are drawn to the same or nearly the same antibody directed against histidine tag.

15. A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

16. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,790,940. This is a double patenting rejection.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention of antibody with same deposit number ACC 2207 (DSM) as that of claim 1 of the US Patent 6,790,940.

17. No claim is allowed.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun Crowder whose telephone number is (571) 272-8142. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chun Crowder, Ph.D.  
Patent Examiner  
June 12, 2006

*PHILLIP GAMBEL*  
PHILLIP GAMBEL, PH.D. J.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
T21600  
6/15/06